

61

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, AUDITORS,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BOSCAWEN,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1861.

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY MCFARLAND & JENKS.

1861.

University of New Hampshire
Library

REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Received from former selectmen,	\$31.34
Collections of 1858 and 1860,	7,098.99
Town of Weare, support of Arvilla S. B. Kimball,	25.50
Town of Grantham, support of James H. Marsh,	5.50
Enoch Gerrish, money hired,	250.00
State Treasurer, literary fund,	146.70
George Coffin, Anna Jackman's note,	367.00
Moses Whittier, note paid,	16.00
George W. Stevens, liquor agency,	82.65
William A. Huntress, liquor agency,	121.23
State Treasurer, Railroad money,	402.97
County, support of paupers,	80.75
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	\$8,628.13

Outstanding Bills.

Paid J. S. Webber, selectmen's services,	1.50
Enoch Gerrish, selectmen's services,	5.75
James F. Sanborn, for support of Jane Day,	1.00
McFarland & Jenks, for printing Town Reports,	26.00
David Jackman, for support of Polly Moody,	5.00
Edward Buxton, superintending schools,	20.00
Ambrose Smith, superintending schools,	16.00
Healey Morse, selectmen's expense,	1.00
Amos S. Alexander, costs on liquor cases in 1856,	9.09
Amos J. Simpson, snowing bridge,	3.00
Hollis Jackman, for making bier, &c.,	1.75
Flint & Bryant, bridge case, 1856,	15.00
Hiram Downing, poll-tax repaid,	1.55
Jonathan Tenney, school books for poor,	3.84

Paid Samuel A. Ambrose, selectmen's expense of town meeting,	3.00
Laban M. Chadwick, colt,	5.00
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	\$118.48

Roads and Bridges.

Paid Orlando H. Fitts, for plank for bridges,	6.92
H. W. Flanders, plank for bridges,	4.29
Francis S. Putney, plank for bridges,	4.76
Friend L. Burbank, plank for bridges,	14.22
C. & J. C. Gage, plank for bridges,	45.45
Ephraim Plumer, plank for bridges,	8.10
N. Watson, plank for bridges,	2.95
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	\$86.69

Support of Paupers.

Paid Ruth S. Gordon, for support of Judith Adams,	5.00
Town of Warner, support of Lois Atkinson,	4.00
John D. Stackpole, support of Arvilla M. B. Kimball,	12.50
Henry Bacon, support of Rachael Carter,	8.00
Sarah Johnson, support of Rhoda Abbott,	20.00
Dr. N. H. Arey, medical attendance on A. B. Kimball,	13.00
Dr. N. H. Arey, medical attendance on Moses Eastman,	10.80
Daniel C. Eastman, support of Moses Eastman,	12.50
Sarah Johnson, support of Rhoda Abbott,	18.00
Henry Bacon, support of Rachael Carter,	11.00
Dr. Nathan Call, medical attendance on E. Gitchel's family,	22.25
Dr. E. K. Webster, medical attendance on Ruth Downing,	1.00
Ira Sweatt, provisions for Charles Riley,	8.00
Ruth S. Gordon, support of Judith Adams,	14.00
David Jackman, support of Polly Moody,	10.64
John Greenough, provisions for E. Gitchel's family,	13.50
E. Gerrish, transient county paupers,	8.60
Town of Warner, support of Lois Atkinson,	11.70
W. A. Huntress, provisions for E. Gitchel's family,	8.00

Paid Town of Andover, serving notice in pauper case,	5.03
E. Gerrish, money and tickets furnished S. Treyette and family,	20.40
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	\$237.92

Miscellaneous Expenses.

Paid John G. Simpson, for notifying town officers and constable,	7.00
Ezekiel W. Durgin, care of hall for town meetings,	5.00
D. A. Gerrish, use of Merrimack Hall for town meetings,	85.00
Daniel Adams, for digging graves,	2.25
Sallie G. Randall, damage to self and carriage breaking through Canterbury bridge,	20.00
David E. Burbank, services town-clerk,	13.81
David E. Burbank, selectmen's board,	1.17
S. B. Little and als., arbitrators,	4.50
Daniel Carter, for digging graves,	12.75
John French, for digging graves,	2.25
Lorenzo S. Dow, school money,	1.25
Selectmen's expense sundry times,	14.40
Enoch Gerrish, horse hire and expenses when out of town on town business,	10.35
McFarland & Jenks, printing Town Reports 1861,	26.00
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	\$205.73

Non-resident Highway Taxes worked.

Paid Zebulon Smith,	1.60
William H. Moulton,	50
Nathaniel White,	1.50
Daniel Jones,	31
John F. Brown,	50
Abiel R. Chandler,	1.50
William B. Corser,	25
Gardner Holmes,	25
Rolfe & Brothers,	1.25
N. Collins,	50
J. Tufts' heirs,	1.25
William B. Corser, 1859,	25
Hiram Roby,	38

Paid Joseph Clough,	18
G. S. Colby,	1.50
Albert Holmes,	1.50
Sarah P. Moore,	1.63
Joseph Barnard,	30.50
Henry Saltmarsh,	75
Eastman & Morrison,	1.00
Joseph Stanwood,	50
John F. Brown, 1859,	50
Augustus Burt,	50
G. W. Hadley,	75
Joseph Eastman,	6.13
Thomas Eastman,	88
James Thompson,	4.13
John Pillsbury,	75
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	\$61.24

School Money paid.

District.	Name.	Agent.	Amount.
No. 1,	Plain,	Nathan Call,	\$192.14
2,	North Water St.,	Silas Call, Jr.,	63.16
3,	Corser Hill,	Caleb A. Morse,	107.15
4,	High Street,	Leavitt C. Whitney,	114.21
5,	Fish Street,	John Patrick,	87.71
6,	Little's Hill,	Cyrus Fitts,	92.09
7,	White Plains,	W. W. Jones,	65.03
8,	Bashan,	Charles B. Little,	116.42
9,	Putney's,	Moses Whittier,	104.17
10,	Gulf,	F. S. French,	134.64
11,	Pleasant Street,	John Kilburn, Jr.,	70.81
12,	Sweatt's Mills,	J. S. Dodge,	65.39
13,	South Water St.,	W. W. Kilburn,	80.57
14,	Fisherville,	A. G. Howe,	261.29
15,	Sanborn's,	William Clough,	35.54
16,	Battle Street,	S. D. Couch,	54.68
17,	Abbott's,	N. Pearson annexed to Warner,	5.00
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			\$1,650.00

School Commissioner.

Paid H. Merrill,	\$28.72
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Superintending School Committee.

Paid Jonathan Tenney, to July 5, 1860,	9.00
Ambrose Smith, to July 5, 1860,	5.00
Edward Buxton, to July 5, 1860,	4.00
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	\$18.00

N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

Paid Joseph Hemenway,) Ann Carter,) Moses Sawyer,)	to November 24, 1860,	\$319.42
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State Tax.

Paid Peter Sanborn, State Tax,	\$502.60
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County Tax.

Paid Arthur L. Graves, County Tax,	\$1,401.69
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Discount on Taxes.

Paid Ira Sweatt, discount on taxes,	\$188.50
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Abatements on Taxes.

Paid Harvey Newton, over tax,	\$6.93
L. T. Boyce, abatements on real estate,	2.21
Ephraim Corey, abatements on real estate,	1.55
Simeon Terrey, abatements on real estate,	38
Sundry small abatements,	7.98
Ira Sweatt, on collection of 1858,	55.96
Ira Sweatt, on collection of 1860,	162.68
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	\$237.69

Collector's Services.

Paid Ira Sweatt, collecting taxes 1860,	\$55.00
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Superintendent at Alms-House.

Paid Matthew Bryant,	\$250.00
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Books, Stationery and Postage.

Paid G. Parker Lyon,	6.97
E. K. Webster, postage stamps and envelopes,	1.99
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	\$8.96

Selectmen's Services.

Paid Enoch Gerrish, services as selectman, overseer of the poor and treasurer,	\$55.00
Paid Almon Harris, for services as selectman,	20.50
J. S. Webber, for services as selectman,	26.50
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	\$102.00

Notes paid.

Paid Joseph G. Eastman, note and interest,	\$440.68
Hannah C. Blaisdell, " "	113.63
John Greenough, two " "	608.89
William Temple, " "	120.89
Hale Atkinson, " "	442.44
Royal Choate, " "	545.74
Ephraim Plumer, " "	363.54
Alpheus C. Flint, " "	128.46
Francis S. French, " "	225.91
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	\$2,990.18
Money hired,	250.00
Whole amount of debts paid,	2,740.18

Division of Liquor Agency.

Paid town of Webster's proportion of G. W. Stevens' agency,	18.16
Paid town of Boscawen's proportion of G. W. Stevens' agency,	25.74
salary of G. W. Stevens,	38.75
Total,	<hr/>
	82.65
Paid town of Webster's proportion of Wm. A. Huntress' agency,	43.74
Paid town of Boscawen's proportion of William A. Huntress' agency,	62.49
salary of W. A. Huntress,	15.00
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	\$121.23

Division of Taxes.

Paid town of Webster their part of taxes due from col- lector, in full to date, as per receipt,	\$75.64
Paid town of Boscawen, since division, their part of the taxes due from collector, in full to date, as per receipt,	108.05
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	\$183.69

SUMMARY.

Outstanding bills,	\$118.48
Roads and bridges,	86.69
Support of paupers,	237.92
Miscellaneous expenses,	205.73
Non-resident highway taxes worked,	61.24
School money,	1,650.00
School commissioner,	28.72
Superintending school committee,	18.00
N. H. Insane Asylum,	319.42
State tax,	502.60
County tax,	1,401.69
Discount on taxes,	188.50
Abatements on taxes,	237.69
Collector's services,	55.00
Superintendent at alms-house,	250.00
Books and stationery,	8.96
Notes paid,	2,990.18
Selectmen's services,	102.00
Division of liquor agency,	203.88
Division of taxes,	183.69

\$8,850.33

Whole amount of receipts, 8,628.13

Due treasurer, \$222.20

Which was settled as follows :

Received from selectmen of Webster,	\$91.49	
“ “ Boscawen, by note,	130.71	
		<hr/> \$222.20

ENOCH GERRISH, } *Selectmen*
 ALMON HARRIS, } *of Boscawen.*

Division of Property.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the town, at the meeting in November last, to settle with the town of Webster, report :

We gave to the town of Webster a quitclaim deed of the west town-house, one hearse, and all burying grounds within the limits of said Webster, excepting the privilege to bury on Beaver Dam Plain, of any who may wish so to do.

The town of Webster gave a quitclaim deed to the town of Boscawen of all property owned in common by said towns, whether located in Boscawen or Webster, consisting in part as follows: The Alms-House and all property belonging to the same—real, personal and mixed; the Pound, near Bitfield Plumer's; the old Meeting-House land; Clay-Hill land; the Bridewell at Fisherville, and a share in the Engine; for which we gave the town of Webster the sum of eleven hundred and thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$1,137.50), and afterward by agreement we assumed the following notes, which we renewed, bearing date December 4, 1860, excepting those held by E. Gerrish, to which we added interest at the same date of the others (there being only one to sign those notes):

Sally Kimball, December 4, 1860,	\$187.58
John Greenough, " "	618.63
Tamson W. Flint, " "	108.05
Enoch Gerrish, " "	351.58
Enoch Gerrish, " "	260.08
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	\$1,525.92

The part belonging to Boscawen to pay,	\$897.60
" " Webster to pay,	628.32

We also hired of John Greenough five hundred and nine dollars and eighteen cents, of the same date, to settle balance due on farm, \$509.18

The proportion of old debt we assumed, 628.32

Whole amount paid town of Webster for farm,	\$1,137.50
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We also received from the town of Webster one hundred and sixty-five dollars and eighty cents, being their proportion to pay the agent at the alms-house, and the board of their paupers to March 30, 1861.

We being unable to agree in the division of paupers, the persons named in the bill for the division of the town were called, and they awarded the following persons to be supported by Boscawen: Rachael Flanders, Joseph Hemenway, Judith Adams, Lois Atkinson, Rhoda Abbott, Wyatt B. Day, Polly Moody, Emily Clough and Ruth Clough. And to the town of Webster the following: Pearson Eastman, Calvin Dow, Moses Sawyer, Ruth Downing, Ann Carter and Rachael Carter.

We also sold the Collector's books, for the years 1858 and 1860, to Ira Sweatt, and balanced all accounts with the two towns, as far as known.

Respectfully submitted,

ENOCH GERRISH, } *Agents for the*
ALMON HARRIS, } *Town of Boscawen.*

Schedule of Property at the Alms-House, March 1, 1861.

STOCK.		HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.	
2 oxen,	\$115.00	5 stoves,	\$20.00
8 cows,	180.00	1 brass kettle,	\$3.00
3 two year old cattle,	45.00	Crockery,	3.00
3 calves,	18.00	Coffee mill,	.25
Horse and colt,	50.00	Chairs and tables,	6.00
2 shotes,	25.00	Iron ware,	5.50
		Tin and earthen ware,	4.00
	\$433.00	Beds and bedding,	50.00
FARMING TOOLS.		Tubs, pails and chairs,	2.00
1 wagon,	\$10.00	Meat barrels,	2.00
1 cart and hay rack,	10.00	Cheese press,	1.00
1 harrow and 2 horse		Knives and forks,	.50
blankets,	2.00	Sad irons,	2.00
1 hay cutter,	3.00	Canister and jugs,	.50
1 single sleigh,	8.00	Cheese safe,	1.50
Chains and drag,	8.00	Trays, chests and drawers,	3.00
2 sleds,	4.50	Dry measures,	.50
Ox yokes and irons,	6.00	Steelyards,	.50
Hay and manure forks,	3.00	Wash pitcher and bowl,	1.50
Harrow and cultivator,	3.50	Meal bags,	.80
Shovels, scythes and rig-		Candle sticks and snuffers,	.42
ging,	2.00	Grain chest,	1.00
Horse and hand rakes,	3.50	Cupboard,	2.00
Beetle and wedge,	.50	Wheel and loom,	1.00
Axes, augers and chisels,	2.00	Bread trough,	.50
Iron bar and shave,	1.00	Brass timepiece,	3.00
Grindstone,	3.00	Glass Lantern,	.75
2 Wheelbarrows,	7.00		
Cops and pin,	.42		\$116.22
Sheep shears and hammer,	.25		
3 hoes,	.50		
	\$78.17		

Pauper Establishment, Dr.

1860.		
March 1.	To real estate,	\$2,000.00
	Personal property,	992.46
	Interest on property,	179.54
	Dr. E. K. Webster's bill,	1.00
	Boarding son ten weeks,	10.00
	Cash,	9.00
	Salary as agent,	200.00
	L. M. Chadwick, colt,	5.00
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		\$3,397.00

Pauper Establishment, Cr.

1861.		
March.	By real estate,	\$2,000.00
	Personal property,	932.78
	395 weeks board,	395.00
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		\$3,327.78

Balance against the Establishment, \$69.22

We apprised the farming tools and household furniture the same as last year, in order to settle with the town of Webster for keeping their paupers, although they did not cost us one half that sum when we bought them last fall.

PROVISIONS.						
40 bushels	oats,	\$18.00	15 pounds	tallow,	1.50	
4	"	beans,	12	"	sausages,	1.20
50	"	corn,	95	"	dried apples,	7.60
1½	"	rye,	10	"	sugar,	.90
½	"	peas,	1	"	tea,	.60
2	"	corn meal,	150	"	ham,	18.00
2	"	barley,	24	gallons	vinegar,	4.00
90	"	potatoes,	2	"	boiled cider,	.50
½	"	salt,	2	"	molasses,	.70
160 pounds	salt beef,	9.60	2	"	pickles,	.50
250	"	salt pork,	2½	barrels	apples,	3.75
228	"	cheese,	1½	"	flour,	10.33
80	"	fresh beef,	Garden	sauce,		.33
70	"	lard,				
55	"	butter,				
		11.00				
						\$241.49

MISCELLANEOUS.			
6 $\frac{2}{3}$ barrels of cider,	\$10.00	Provisions,	241.49
Cider barrels and 30 dry		Household furniture,	116.22
casks,	3.00	Farming tools,	78.17
Wood and hand-saw,	1.00	Stock,	433.00
Soap, grease and ashes,	5.40		<hr/>
22 cords of wood,	44.00		\$932.78
Garden seeds,	.50		
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	\$63.90		

There has been a depreciation in the value of stock since last Spring, which accounts in part for the balance against the Establishment.

ENOCH GERRISH, }
ALMON HARRIS, } *Overseers of the Poor.*

Town of Boscawen since division, Dr.

1860.

December 4.	Received of Sally Kimball, by renewal of note,	\$187.58
	John Greenough, by renewal of note,	618.63
	Enoch Gerrish, by renewal of two notes,	611.66
	Tamson W. Flint, by renewal of note,	108.05
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	Old town notes renewed,	\$1,525.92

Received of John Greenough, money hired,	509.18
G. W. Stevens, our proportion liquor agency,	25.74
W. A. Huntress, our proportion liquor agency,	62.49
W. A. Huntress, on account,	6.00
S. C. Evans, board of boy,	10.00
Town of Webster, support of paupers,	165.80
Old town taxes in full our part,	108.05
Hale Atkinson, for money hired March 1, 1861,	134.69
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	\$2,547.87

Town Debt.

Notes, as above,	\$2,035.10
Interest since December 4,	30.53
Hale Atkinson's note,	134.69

Total debt, \$2,200.32

Town of Boscawen, since division, Cr.

Paid Nesmith, Cate & Abbott, arbitrators in pauper case,	\$10.60
E. K. Webster, postage and envelopes,	1.00
S. B. Little, for running line,	1.00
Town of Webster, their proportion of poor farm,	1,137.50
Assumed by the new town their proportion of the old town's debts, by renewal of notes,	897.60
Sarah C. Johnson, board of Rhoda Abbott,	14.00
N. Butler, for making deeds, advice, &c.,	2.37
W. A. Huntress, for provisions for Enoch Thurston,	10.00
Ira Sweatt, for repairs on twin bridge, road, &c.,	31.63
Ruth S. Gordon, for support of Judith Adams,	7.00
Jonathan Tenney, for examining school and teachers,	3.00
Ambrose Smith, for examining school and teachers,	6.00
David Jackman, for support of Polly Moody,	4.36
Town of Warner, for support of Lois Atkinson,	9.00
Ezra B. Gitchel, for work on roads and bridges,	12.00
Henry Atkinson, for work on roads and bridges,	3.50
G. W. Atkinson, for work on roads and bridges,	2.00
W. B. Burpee, for work on roads and bridges,	1.00
Hervey Atkinson, for work on roads and bridges,	3.50
David Hoag, for work on roads and bridges,	2.80
Ephraim Plumer, for work on roads and bridges,	1.60
Gage, Porter & Co., for nails,	.45
S. C. Evans, agent at almshouse to April 1,	200.00
Almon Harris, for services as selectman,	13.25
Enoch Gerrish, for services as selectman,	20.00
Isaac K. Gage, for auditing accounts, &c., two years,	5.00
Treasurer of old town, balance due on settlements,	130.71
D. A. Gerrish, for use of hall in town-meeting in November,	17.00

\$2,547.87

ENOCH GERRISH, } *Selectmen*
 ALMON HARRIS, } *of Boscawen.*

REPORT OF LIQUOR AGENT.

W. A. Huntress, Agent since division, August 15, 1860.

Liquors bought,	\$198.94	
Cash by sales,		\$251.49
Cost of liquors,	\$198.94	
Freight and truckage,	10.25	
Agent's salary,	15.00	
	<hr/>	\$224.19
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		\$27.30
Paid Town,	\$6.00	
Casks, &c.,	4.83	
	<hr/>	\$10.83
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		\$16.47
Received of the town, August 15, 1860,		31.71
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Due town,		\$48.18

W. A. HUNTRESS, *Agent.*

The undersigned, appointed to audit the accounts of the Selectmen for the year 1860, reports that he has examined said accounts, and finds the receipts to have been, from March 14, 1860, to February 28, 1861, inclusive, in favor of the town before the division of the same, \$8,850.33, and the disbursements for the same time, \$8,850.33.

Receipts from July 4, 1860, to February 28, 1861, in favor of the town since division, \$2,547.87, and disbursements for the same time, \$2,547.87; the accounts of which are properly vouched and correctly cast.

. ISAAC K. GAGE, *Auditor.*

SCHOOL REPORT.

CITIZENS OF BOSCAWEN : You have intrusted us with your dearest interests. You have made us the public supervisors of the intellectual, social and moral culture of your children. We have endeavored to appreciate the trust, and to do our duty. Now we submit to you our report.

Our legal duties are plainly specified in the laws of the State. Our oath of office binds us to their performance. You have asked no more, though much more might have been done for the benefit of our schools.

While we are satisfied that the imperfect and partial supervision of schools required by law is decidedly useful in making them more efficient than they otherwise would be, we are equally satisfied that a more perfect and complete supervision is demanded by a wise and liberal policy.

It costs the town about \$1,000 annually, for the education received by its three hundred and fifty children in its eight schools. This includes the expense of supervision, teaching, and repairing and examining school-houses. The service rendered is about one hundred and sixty weeks, or twenty weeks, on an average, to each school. This, surely, is not a large expenditure, when we consider the magnitude of the interest involved, the men and women employed in its management as teachers and supervisors, and the time consumed.

Our common schools were established to educate the people for all the ordinary duties and responsibilities of parents, neighbors, citizens ; to make accurate business men ; trustworthy public officers. Do they do it ? We want facts, and ask our sober, observing men to bring them forward. Let us ask our men and women, old and young, " who have received *all* of their education " in these schools ! Let us see their hand-writing ; let us see their spelling ; let us hear them read ; let us see their letter of business or friendship ; let us ask them to make out the town taxes, draft a bond or deed, cast the interest on a note running three or four years, and complicated by several partial payments. Do they do these things readily and " in good shape ? " Very well, if they do. But did they acquire their skill in the common school, or in the severe school of active life ? Now let us question them in Geography, English Grammar and U. S.

History? Are they "at home" in these important things? If they are, did they gain their aptness in the common school? Now let us go to our men of influence in churches and political parties; to our skillful men in our factories, counting-rooms and banks; to our selectmen and other town officers; to our best farmers who know their soil and what to do with it; to our master mechanics, who plan the work and execute it dextrously. Did they gain their knowledge, influence and skill in the common school, or did they learn most of it afterward from other masters—from the strong minded parent, or from the skillful merchant, or artisan, or public officer with whom they served?

Boscawen is not a whit behind the average of New-England towns in intelligence and moral virtue. But all will confess that its hundred years of schools and churches ought to have made it wiser and better than it is. What we can thus honestly confess of ourselves, can, it is true, be said with more force of many towns. We believe there are worse schools, worse churches, worse people. But this fact will neither excuse nor save us. Let us be faithful. That we are not better off than we are is not because we lack mind. Mind is our staple, if we but knew it. In this valley of the Merrimack were born a Webster, a Fessenden, a Dix. Yes, and so were hundreds of others who have adorned the places they have filled, and are adorning them. How few of them received their education in our home schools. And why should not our children be educated at home? Ought they to look for better influences abroad? Ought they to carry their money and their influence to other homes at our expense? Surely they should not go away until they have contracted a *home debt of gratitude* which they will ever delight to honor and strive to repay.

It ought to be no fault of ours if every child living in our midst has not a "first rate" physical, mental and moral education. Our location is adapted to it; we have means enough. Let us invest wisely, and increase our capital.

Every well-educated child becomes a producer. He makes our farms more productive; he does our mechanic arts well; he becomes the teacher of our schools. He helps pay our taxes; he helps keep our money at home. He makes our buildings and gardens look better. He betters our society; he invites good people to come and dwell among us. He promotes, by his wall of good principles, the public peace and order. He gives us a good name abroad, far better than riches.

The non-educated child is a non-producer. None of these things spring up from him, or are promoted by him. We lose all he *might* do, in proportion as he lacks proper education. It is a dead loss. It may result in *positive expense* if, by reason of sickness, or ignorance, or vice, that might have been prevented, he becomes a pauper, an insane person, a bungler in his work, a mischief maker, a riotous person, or a State criminal. He lies about our character, steals our property, endangers our life; his presence increases our taxation, lessens the value of our estates. Let us look about us and see if it be not even so.

It becomes every wise and good man, then, to see to it that every child be well trained. The child is, in a large sense, public property. *It is every body's business to prevent losing by him—to make gain by him if possible.* If a good child is growing up in my midst, how happy if I have helped make him so; if a bad one, how wretched if I have helped make him so. Let us see, then, if we, as citizens, are all doing our duty to our children.

We have room only to suggest. We are, we trust, addressing men of sense. Some of our suggestions are as old as truth, but if needed, like God's truth, will bear repeating.

WHAT WE WANT.

1. *Larger Schools.* An average of twenty weeks annually is not enough. They ought to be kept open at least thirty weeks.

2. *Regular attendance.* We have too much "staying out," and often for very trifling or selfish reasons. The service of children will be worth more when older and better educated. True economy would advise to hire help now and let our sons and daughters go to school regularly when nature tells us they ought no more to be put to hard work than the steer or the colt. Youth is the time for the growth and training of body and mind.

3. *Less tardiness and dismissal.* Never should these be allowed except for unavoidable reasons. The first business of pupils should be *going to school*; and all other matters should be secondary. Tardiness and dismissal lead to idle habits, bad companions and loose business habits. Parents should grant, and teachers require, *written excuses* for such things.

4. *Better health among our children,* secured by proper attention to dress, food, sleep, exercise and good air. No sound mind without sound body. Parents should know about these things and see to them. Headaches, cold feet, foul stomachs, weak nerves, weak lungs, bad colds, neglected bathing, make lost time, lost lessons, bad scholars, useless members of society. See that your teachers do their duty in these things. How many have sickened and died from the ignorance or neglect of the bad school-room or rude play-ground which only the intelligent and conscientious teacher should supervise.

5. *Better morals among our children.* A very observant educator says, "our common schools are schools of vice." The children of virtuous, kind and refined parents meet their opposites on the playground and by the way side. Wrong is "catching." It will take all the preventives and antidotes which the best parents can use to keep their children from impurity, profanity, thieving, cheating and lying. What shall be done to make our public schools schools of virtue and refinement? Parents, be watchful. Get right teachers and help them. Visit schools often; see who are associates of your children. If they are bad, and you can not help it, heaven help you. The measles, hooping-cough and small-pox are less to be dreaded. If our public schools can not be kept *clean* of moral impurity, they had better be abolished.

6. *More home encouragement to study.* All children should feel that their parents are interested in what they are doing in school. The little ones may be questioned by mothers; the older ones may be required to study a reasonable time out of school. Practical illustrations and transactions should be directed by parents, such as casting interest on notes, measuring wood, making out and reckoning accounts, correcting faulty language, writing letters to friends, reading aloud from newspapers, &c. The mind, it is true, should be allowed to rest, the body to exercise. We would have no undue stimulus; but the matter of school study should be a matter of *home practice*. This can be done all the better if parents visit schools.

7. *More visiting schools.* Our registers show a good record of visits. But it is sad to see how few, comparatively, are parents and older citizens. Most are the young friends of the teacher and the pupils. We are glad to find their names among "visitors;" but where are the parents? We know how they excuse themselves—"so much to do at home," "so many callers," "so tired," "so much trouble to get ready," and all such. But we fear these will not answer at the bar of conscience, the bar of God. Parent, think of the exposure of your children—body, mind, soul! *You* are responsible for their training. What is the teacher doing? He may be a stranger, and doing a damage you can never remedy. Where does your child sit in the school-room? On a deformity-making bench? Too near a hot stove? In a current of cold air? Beside a vicious school-mate? What influences are exerted upon him by teacher and school-mate? What is he learning? How is he behaving? But why do we multiply words on this point? It is perfectly appalling to see how parents neglect their children in school, to say nothing of home. We can find no excuse for them.

8. *The best Text-Books.* The good farmer and mechanic always buys, as soon as he finds them, better tools to facilitate and perfect his labor. Equally wise should he be in relation to his children. The "hill of science" is all up hill at the best, and full of rocks and briers, as well as gems and roses. Make the child's pathway happy, by cheerful voices and the best helps. Allow your school committee to order the best books, and cheerfully purchase them. If you are not able to do it, it is the duty of the town to do it for you. If you are able it is hardly kind to be unwilling. This grumbling about buying books is far too common, and betrays any thing but a liberal intelligence.

9. *Good School Lots.* These should surely be as carefully considered as the location of a barn or a dwelling-house. School lot No. 1 is in the corner of a cemetery; No. 4 on a barren rock, exposed to the roughest blasts of our northern clime; No. 10 amid the loosest sands of our alluvial soil, at the corner where four roads meet; No. 13 quite too near a swamp. The school lot should be elevated and airy, but protected from the ruder winds; near wholesome water, but clear from mud and loose sand; fertile as a garden, that it may grow

shade trees and shrubs and grass; level enough and free from stones, that it may make a good play-ground; large enough to satisfy the reasonable sports of the pupils, so as to keep them from the dangers of the street and the inclosures of the neighbors. It should be selected with regard to these things, rather than to exact geographical center. No child would complain of a long walk to a cheerful place. Hoping, as we do, to see, before many years, a better class of school-houses in our town, we hope that early attention will be given by the districts to looking up and securing good lots.

10. *Good School-Houses.* We will not now urge this matter. It has often been done by our predecessors. Our want is felt by nearly every citizen. The erection of better houses is only a question of time. We think it can not be talked over, *in earnest*, in our district meetings, too soon. When we have such houses they will give us better teachers, better pupils, better homes, and a better name abroad. The extra demands which now increase our town expenses will soon be met by an energetic and prudent people. Then let us "make a move" to remove this stigma of poor school-houses and lots far from us. Our children, for whom we toil, will ever bless us if we do it. We repeat what every observing man knows, when we say that Nos. 1, 4, 10 and 13, are not fit for the purposes for which they are used; nor can we say that we have *any* which are up to the demands of the present age. Just look into some of our neighboring towns, and compare their houses with ours, and this will be confessed. Let us have *models* when we have new houses.

Every school lot should have a pump connected with a good spring or well of water. It would cost but little, and save trouble to neighbors and many other consequent annoyances; a good fence to inclose and protect the lot; posts for hitching horses. Beside, the school-house should usually be the horse-shed for entrance when shade and shelter is required for beast as well as man; a wood-shed connecting with the school-room, without encumbering the entry; a building demanded by decency, secure to each sex, and so situated that it may not be an offense to the inmates of the school or the passers by. Are all our districts thus provided?

11. *School Furniture.* The stove, comely to the eye, warming all and roasting none; the ventilator that leads to the open air; the outside blinds and inside curtains; the easy seats, adapted to the various sizes of pupils; the desks well contrived for safety of books and writing exercises; the teacher's desk in full view of his school, and securing his private papers by good lock and key; several chairs for teachers and visitors; clock; thermometer; school bell; water pail and dipper; mats; broom and brush, are all necessary to every school. Neatness, taste and order go together. Paint, paper-hangings, well laid plaster and whitewash, make the room more cheerful, and the pupils and teachers, of course, better contented. How little of these in our school-rooms, let every citizen notice at the next school meeting. On winter examination days let those who attend notice the school furniture, and see how convenient it is! Who can blame the little "restless mortals" for their uneasiness, or wonder at

their mischief in those seats and behind those desks, breathing such bad air, with cold feet from cracks below, or heated brain from the fierce stove and funnel overhead! We would like, when we get some new school-houses, to say more on this want, and show its importance.

12. *Best Teachers.* We have been improving; we have some *excellent* teachers who are trying to become "the best." Let us encourage such by continued confidence — employing and paying them well. Why do our districts change teachers so often? If what they should be, they should be retained as long as possible. Their better knowledge of the character and wants of our children and their parents, their increased experience, make their services more valuable. They are worth more and should be paid more if justice demands it.

"As the teacher, so is the school," is a well approved maxim. If we would have our pupils accurate, independent thinkers, sound and correct in the sciences, liberal and practical in knowledge, honorable in business matters, refined in social manners, virtuous in character, our teachers must be of the same stamp. It is not unfair for us to say that many of our teachers are lacking in these things. Many are too young and can not be expected to have these needful accomplishments; the wages offered are often too low to secure the best. It is very absurd to employ one to teach the little ones who knows but little himself; or to trust him to govern who is yet a mere child himself in human nature. The day of the masters who did but little but "chew tobacco and wallop the boys," "set copies," "do sums," and "hear 'em read and spell," is about over. Teaching is a science; governing is a science. Not every one who has attended a term in the academy can teach. Those who teach ought to know and love the trade. To govern boys and girls, will demand the same skill, energy, boldness and firmness required to govern a State. To teach children well, requires learning no less than that demanded in any other learned profession, accompanied with an aptness far quite as winning and a power quite as impressive.

We have been more and more impressed with the importance of examining our candidates for teaching, carefully and fully. We would *raise* our standard. We would urge our prudential committees to the importance of great prudence in selecting candidates, and to encouraging none until they have been duly examined and have presented the proper certificate. We hope our successors will give us none but the best teachers.

On special schools, we report the following:

MR. TENNEY'S SCHOOLS.

District No. 1. Summer. The teacher had good mental attainments; and her cultivated taste and refined manners had a good influence upon the school. Her love of order was apparent. Her principal fault in teaching was the too common one, of confinement to the text book. The pupils made good progress in their books,

and parents were generally satisfied. That the pupils loved their teacher, was attested in a pretty token at the close of the term,—a commendable way of paying teachers, as money can not pay them.

Winter. The teacher is a man of successful experience. His unostentatious methods of imparting knowledge and easy government, make the school-room have a home-like seeming in it, agreeable to the pupil and the visitor. Many of our teachers *fret* too much. The quiet way is the best. The school, interrupted by the measles, is not yet closed. We are expecting proofs of a profitable term.

District No. 4. Summer and Winter. The same well-tried, painstaking, eminently successful teacher, both terms. Fortunate district this in securing her services. Every thing is neat and orderly at all times. And she does it all so quietly! She surprises the visitor at examination with the results of her faithful and well-directed industry. She has, what districts ought to have, maps, charts, &c, and with them makes the walls comely with their beauty and vocal with the knowledge they impart. She wakes up her pupils, makes them desire knowledge, and shows them how to gain it. She is not a blind leader of the blind. She dares to lead her scholars without a text-book in her hand. Her works praise her. Please examine the "school table" and compare the average attendance, tardiness, dismissal, and parental visits, with others. They reflect credit upon the pupils and parents in that growing district.

District No. 13. Summer. Teacher wished to do well; was amiable in her social character; but certain it is, that she had not yet acquired the art of teaching and managing a school. The final examination must have shown this to all who were present.

Winter. The teacher has native abilities, honest purposes, directness, industry, energy. With more study and experience, he will make an excellent teacher. Most pupils did well in their text-books. All teachers should possess much general knowledge for illustrating and enforcing instruction. They should be able to correct faults in text-books, and to leave them, at times, entirely. This district has some of the best minds in town, and ought to have cultivated, accurate and zealous teachers.

MR. SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

District No. 2. One fall and winter school of two terms, a good arrangement in small districts, improving the best season of the year for school purposes. The teacher seemed perfectly at home, and the order and progress of her pupils were highly commendable. More of the citizens should have visited the pleasant school-room, and seen how well it was occupied. A good school-house speaks to every passer-by of taste and thrift, and more than repays its cost by enhancing the value of property in its neighborhood, and inviting others to settle near.

District No. 5. The summer and winter schools were kept by the same teacher—an excellent plan in many cases. The scholars can go on with their course of study through the year, beginning in

winter where they had ended in summer. The government and instruction of the school were good. The scholars were evidently made to think for themselves. On examination they were not helped along by leading questions, as is too often the case, or allowed to lean upon each other by reciting in concert. To the superficial observer they may not perhaps make so good a show, but every person of discrimination will form a higher estimate of the performance. This district is rewarded for the expense of a good school-house a hundred fold, having uniformly good schools. A pleasant and comfortable room has very much to do with the quiet and success of a school. The teacher says: "We have felt, from the diligence and cheerful obedience of the pupils, that we have had the hearty coöperation and support of the parents,"—a remark worthy of notice.

District No. 10. The Summer school was under the care of a well qualified and faithful teacher. Her assiduous labors and excellent influence were attended by a good degree of success. But the habitual irregularity of attendance and the uncomfortable state of the school-house, seriously interfered with the improvement of the scholars. The teacher says: "From my own experience as a pupil in the same building, I can testify that is a hard place to study." We may add, a hard place to form habits of neatness and order—a taste for what is beautiful and good.

The Winter school, also, was as successful as could be expected under the untoward circumstances. The measles very much interrupted the school, as the hooping-cough had done the summer before. Those who were able to go through the term appeared very well on examination, in respect to both deportment and progress. The teacher says truly, "The school is very badly classified. A teacher can not do justice to himself or to his scholars where so many classes are allowed."

District No. 14. Summer School. The higher department enjoyed the services of an experienced and successful teacher. Her cultivated manners and excellent influence had a very marked effect on the habits of her pupils, gently imparting to the whole school an air of quiet and beautiful order. The progress of the scholars in their several branches of study was very good.

The primary department, under its amiable teacher, was likewise quite successful. Her little pupils were as quiet and happy, and made as great proficiency as could reasonably be expected of children at their age.

Winter School. The higher department was under the tuition of an experienced and well qualified teacher. He evidently has much of that peculiar tact which is necessary to make one happy and successful in his profession. The method of government and instruction were highly commended by the County Commissioner. The attendance was unusually large and punctual. The teacher required all his pupils to be present at the opening exercises, even when necessarily absent a part or all of the day, and speaks of the plan as working admirably. He adds: "The scholars, as a whole, are intelligent,

moral and industrious. Under judicious teachers the school may rank, ere long, among the very first in the State."

The primary department was under the same teacher who had charge of the higher grade the previous summer. Her influence, as before, was very salutary, and the improvement of her many little pupils commendable.

This school, each term, in both departments, has done unusually well the past year. The citizens have evinced much interest and made numerous visits. May the improvement go still onward. No institution is more vital to the welfare of society than the public school—the college of the people—the source of intelligence and discipline for the masses. Let this be neglected, and the whole community must suffer.

It is hoped that this report will be carefully read, and its suggestions kindly received, as they are kindly given. They are not written for practical utility. Hastily written, they are the result of years of wide experience and close observation. If the report seems long, the importance of the theme is our only excuse.

Respectfully submitted,

JONATHAN TENNEY, JR., } *S. S. Committee.*
AMBROSE SMITH, }

SCHOOL TABLE.

	SUMMER.	Number of District.	TEACHERS' NAMES.	Teachers' Residences.	Wages per month, including board.	No. of pupils each term.	Average attendance.	Length of term in weeks.	No. of times tardy.	No. of times dismissed.	Visits of citizens and others.	Visits of Superintending School Committee.	Visits of the Prudential Committee.	No. of scholars attending during the year.
	1	2	Susan E. Hersey..... See Winter.....	Hopkinton.....	\$19.00	50 40	15	178	21	34	2	1	65	
	4	5	Ellen K. Abbott..... Mattie S. Pillsbury.....	Webster..... Boscawen.....	18.00 13 12 05 14.00 16 14 1	11 12	6 28	4 17	75 30	2 2	2 1	23 20		
	10	13	Anna M. French..... Maria H. Haley.....	Boscawen..... Andover.....	16.00 27 22 12.00 24	11 8	83 37	15 35	37 20	2 2	0 0	33 38		
	14	14	Sara F. Tenney..... Sarah B. Chandler.....	Fisherville..... Fisherville..	14.00 53 42 10.00 46 35	94 9	103 325	18 30	3 2	3 0	3 0	159 0		
	1	2	Joseph Couch..... Nancy E. Couch.....	Webster..... Webster.....	\$34.00 43 33 15.00 14 10	12 16	129 15	20 13	48 26	2 2	0 2	0 2		
	4	5	Ellen K. Abbott..... Mattie S. Pillsbury.....	Webster..... Boscawen.....	20.00 20 19 14.00 17 13.57	10 12	55 31	6 3	24 23	2 3	2 1	2 1		
	10	13	David P. Goodhue..... Carlos F. Hardy.....	Boscawen..... Hopkinton..	24.00 30 19 1 22.00 34 24 1	12 7 1/2	124 154	46 118	25 30	3 3	0 1	0 1		
	13	14	J. E. Pecker..... Sara F. Tenney.....	Boscawen..... Fisherville..	47.50 50 40.06 14.00 58 45	10 10	55 80	48 57	3 3	2 1	2 1			

PRUDENTIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE.—Dr. Nathan Call, Silas Call, Jr., Leavitt C. Whitney, John Patrick, Francis S. French, Warren W. Kilburn, Alpheus G. Howe.

The districts in this report retain the same numbers as before the division of the town. The average attendance in numbers 1 and 10 were much affected by hooping-cough and measles.

